

PLEASE AMEND THE SPECIFICATION AS FOLLOWS:

The third paragraph on page 6 now reads as follows:

In FIG. 3 we show a more detailed view of the structure of the present invention, including the various layers of which it is made. At the bottom is read head 15 which is encapsulated in insulating medium 31 which is sandwiched between magnetic shields 16 and 26. The read head is optimized for reading perpendicularly recorded data in a magnetic medium (such as layer 17 of FIG. 2). These shielding layers are made of a suitable magnetic material such as NiFe, CuZrHf, or Sendust.

*A<sup>1</sup>  
concl.*

The last paragraph on page 7 now reads as follows:

Flux connection between layers 22 and 23 is provided by a cavity that extends between them (passing through layers 33 and 34), said cavity being filled with magnetic material 35 (made of a suitable magnetic material such as NiFe, CoNiFe, CoFeB, CoNiV, and CoNiMo. Sections 23 and 35 may also be plated simultaneously during the same step.

*A<sup>2</sup>  
concl.*